ROMANIZATION OF CHINESE GEOGRAPHIC NAMES IN DESCRIPTIVE AND SUBJECT HEADINGS
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Geonet (GNS), the website of the US Board on Geographic Names (BGN), is the reference source used by the Library of Congress to establish headings for place names. Headings for Chinese jurisdictions should be established in conformance with approved GNS forms, or romanized in a manner analogous to similar forms recommended by GNS (exception noted below in section 2A).

1. Distinguish systematic romanization from GNS form

While Chinese is always systematically romanized in descriptive strings, headings for Chinese place names may vary from systematic pinyin romanization. One should try to romanize systematically when establishing headings for Chinese place names. However, when the GNS form differs from the systematically romanized form of the name of a place, follow the GNS form in establishing the heading for the jurisdiction (except when the name includes a generic term for town or village, see 2A below).

EXAMPLE 1:
place name appears in title as: 陕西省
romanize place name in title as: Shanxi Sheng
GNS form: Shaanxi Sheng
heading established as: Shaanxi Sheng (China)

EXAMPLE 2:
place name appears in title as: 刚边寨
romanize place name in title as: Gangbian Zhai
GNS form: Gangbian
heading established as: Gangbian Zhai (China)
    provide reference: Gangbian (Guizhou Sheng, China)

EXAMPLE 3:
place name appears in title as: 哈尔滨
romanize place name in title as: Haerbin
GNS form: Harbin
heading established as: Harbin (China)
    reference given from: Haerbin (China)

EXAMPLE 4:
place name appears in corporate name: 镇宁布依族苗族自治县民族
事务委员会
romanize corporate name systematically as: Zhenning Buyizu Miaozu Zizhixian min zu shi wu wei yuan hui

GNS form for the related place:	Zhenning Bouyeizu Miaozu Zizhixian
heading for place name established as:	Zhenning Bouyeizu Miaozu Zizhixian (China)

EXAMPLE 5:

place name appears in corporate name as:	陈巴尔虎旗文化局
romanize corporate name systematically as:	Chen Baerhu Qi wen hua ju…
GNS form for the related place:	Chen Barag Qi
heading for place name established as:	Chen Barag Qi (China)

EXAMPLE 6:

place name appears as:	大港区
romanize place name as:	Dagang Qu
GNS form:	Dagang Qu
heading established as:	Dagang Qu (Tianjin, China)

EXAMPLE 7.

place name appears as:	九龙
romanize place name as:	Jiulong
GNS form:	Kowloon
heading established as:	Kowloon (China)
reference given from:	Jiulong (Hong Kong, China)

2. Establishing headings for Chinese place names

A. When romanizing generic terms for jurisdictions in descriptive text, separate the term for the jurisdiction from the name of the place.

GNS typically connects the generic terms for populated and incorporated places below the 3rd level of administrative district. To promote consistency of romanization in bibliographic and authority files, the Library of Congress will, as an exceptional practice, separate the term for county (Xian 县), as well as the following generic terms for towns and villages (村 Cun, 乡 Xiang, 镇 Zhen, 庄 Zhuang), in romanized strings and in headings.

In all other cases, establish headings following the GNS form.

EXAMPLE 1:

place name appears in title as:	大邱庄
romanize place name in title as:	Daqiu Zhuang
GNS form:	Daqiuzhuang
heading established as:	Daqiu Zhuang (China)

| | give reference from: | Daqiuzhuang (China) |

EXAMPLE 2:

place name appears in title as:	金胜村
romanize place name in title as:	Jinsheng Cun
GNS form:	[not given]
heading established as:	Jinsheng Cun (China)

EXAMPLE 3:

place name appears in title as:	大河村
romanize place name in title as:	Dahe Cun
GNS form:	[not given]
heading established as:	Dahe Cun (Zhengzhou Shi, China)

EXAMPLE 4:

place name appears in title as:	棠浦鎮
romanize place name in title as:	Tangpu Zhen
GNS form:	Tangpu
heading established as:	Tangpu Zhen (Jiangxi Sheng, China)
give reference from:	Tangpu (Jiangxi Sheng, China)

EXMAPLE 5:

place name appears in title as:	祁县
romanize place name in title as:	Qi Xian
GNS forms:	Qixian (populated place), Qi Xian (3rd level administrative district)
heading established as:	Qi Xian (Shanxi Sheng, China)
give reference from:	Qixian (Shanxi Sheng, China)

EXAMPLE 6:

place name appears in title as:	樟树亭仔
romanize place name in title as:	Zhangshutingzi
GNS form:	[not given]
establish heading as:	Zhangshutingzi (China)

EXAMPLE 7:

place name appears in title as:	金溪大塘
romanize place name in title as:	Jinxidatang
GNS form:	[not given]
heading established as:	Jinxidatang (China)

B. Recently, citations on GNS have reflected new practices for naming places in China. Jurisdictions throughout China are being reorganized; many place names are changing. Some generic terms for jurisdictions are changing their traditional meanings. For

example, Shi 市 traditionally meant "city", but now may refer to different kinds of 2nd or 3rd level administrative areas – localities we might call urban areas regions. Few cities are now called Shi, while regions throughout China (consisting of several counties and urban areas) are frequently called Shi. Sometimes these regions include smaller units that are also called Shi.

> EXAMPLE:
> In Hunan Sheng, Wugang Shi 武冈市 is an urban area, population 720,000; it falls under the larger region, Shaoyang Shi 邵阳市, which has a population of 7,210,000.

Follow this procedure when establishing a heading for a place that includes Shi in its name: when Shi has any meaning other than city or populated place, AND is in conflict with a former place name, distinguish it by qualifying the name with "Prefecture" or another appropriate term.

> EXAMPLE:
> Authority record 1:   151 Meixian Diqu (China) 梅县地区 [2nd level ADM, district]
> 551 Meixian Zhuanqu (China)
>
> Authority record 2:   151 Meizhou Shi (China) 梅州市 [town; capital of Meixian Diqu; Meizhou Shi merged with Mei Xian to become Meixian Shi in 1983]
> 551 Meixian Shi (China)
>
> Authority record 3:   151 Mei Xian (Guangdong Sheng, China) 梅县 [3rd level ADM, county; (earlier and now) later name of Meixian Shi]
> 551 Meixian Shi (China)
>
> Authority record 4:   151 Meixian Shi (China) 梅县市 [(later and now) earlier name of Mei Xian]
> 551 Mei Xian (Guangdong Sheng, China)
>
> GNS, 2002:   - entry for Meizhou Shi, ADM2, 24°18' N 116°06' E; variant: Meixian Diqu
> - entry for Meizhou, PPL, 24°18' N 116°07' E
> - entry for Mei Xian, ADM3, 24°16' N 116°06' E

Chinese gazetteer, 2001: identifies Mei Xian, populaton 600,000, which is included within Meizhou Shi, population 4,760,000; there is no entry for the urban area Meizhou

Zhonghua Renmin Gongheguo xian ji yi shang xing zheng qu hua yan ge, 1987: Mei Xian and Meizhou Shi merged to become Meixian Shi in 1983

Take the following steps:

Authority record 1:   - because there is evidence on GNS that Meixian Diqu changed its name to Meizhou Shi, add 551 Meizhou Shi (China : Prefecture)

Authority record 2:   - add 551 Meixian Shi (China)

Authority record 3:   - no change

Authority record 4:   - add 551 Meizhou Shi (China)

Create authority record 5:
                    - 151 Meizhou Shi (China : Prefecture) – qualify the heading because it conflicts with authority record 2
                    - provide 551 Meizhou Shi (China)
                    - provide 551 Meixian Diqu (China)

C. GNS citations for populated places having roughly the same coordinates as 2nd and 3rd level administrative districts with same name can no longer be assumed to refer to same basic geographic area. Therefore, the following portion of LCRI 23.2 will be deleted:
> For populated places within China, if GNS shows both a form as a populated place (PPL) and as an administrative area (ADM) with the generic term, use a single heading for both the populated place and any administrative unit.cite RI 23.2 use PPL when coordinates same as those of ADM3

Continue to refer to GNS form when establishing a place name. Establish the name as it is given, with or without generic term for jurisdiction. When there is a choice between names, prefer to use the longer form of name, following this provision of LCRI 23.2:
> If the name is based on the form found in a recently published gazetteer, generally use in the heading to form found on the item being cataloged rather than a shortened form or unabbreviated form found in a gazetteer, unless 23.5A is applicable.

EXAMPLE 1:
GNS cites: Anyang 安阳   PPL   36° 05'N 114° 19'E

Anyang Xian 安阳县	ADM3	36 °05'N 114° 21'E
Anyang Shi 安阳市	ADM2	36°05' N 114°21'E

Anyang, the entry for the populated place, no longer represents either of the other two places cited on GNS with virtually the same coordinates. In 1982, Anyang Shi [ADM3] absorbed 5 counties of Anyang Diqu and was upgraded to ADM2. The next year, the remaining 5 counties in Anyang Diqu were transferred to Puyang Shi, and Anyang Diqu was abolished. Anyang Shi is now a prefecture with a population of 5,130,000: it includes 9 subordinate jurisdictions: 4 Qu 区 (population 150,000 to 210,000); 1 Shi 市 (population 970,000), and 4 Xian 县 (population 440,000 to 1,180,000).

The 2001 Chinese gazetteer no longer identifies the city of Anyang as a distinct jurisdiction. That urban area now appears to consist of several municipal distrcits (Qu 区) within the prefecture Anyang Shi. Anyang Xian is a county of 1,120,000 people adjacent to the former Anyang (City).

EXAMPLE 2:
place name appears in title as:	浦棠乡
romanize place name in title as:	Putang Xiang
GNS form:	Putang
heading established as:	Putang Xiang (China)
give reference from:	Putang (Jiangsu Sheng, China : North)

D. Follow the provisions of LCRI 23.4F1 to resolve conflicts in the headings for place names:
> … if there is no existing conflict in the catalog, search gazetteers, etc., to determine if two or more places within the same jurisdiction have the same name or if two or more places with the same name would bear the same qualifier for the larger place.

Thoroughly search headings in the bibliographic and authority files, and refer to GNS and a recent Chinese gazetteer (one published within the past year, if possible). Take the date of the GNS entry into account when identifying the most recent name of a place.

If no conflict is found, qualify the heading with China or Taiwan. If a conflict is identified, generally qualify with name of province. If a conflict is identified within a province, provide further qualification, as appropriate.

EXAMPLE 1:
Longtian 龙田 conflicts with 5 other place names which are romanized in the same way on GNS; therefore, qualify with the name of the province:

151 Longtian (Anhui Sheng, China)

EXAMPLE 2:

151 Pinglu Xian (Shanxi Sheng, China : North) 平陆县 conflicted with another county in Shanxi Sheng

EXAMPLE 3:

451 Yanping (Guangdong Sheng, China : West) a variant form which conflicted with another Yanping listed in Eastern Guangdong Sheng.

E. Recent Chinese gazetteers cite the names of administrative units that are "undistinguished" in nature: for example, Jiao Qu 郊区 (Suburban District), Shi Qu 市区 and Cheng Qu 城区 (Urban District). There are also variations, such as Beijiao Qu 北郊区 and Nanjiao Qu 南郊区. GNS has not provided citations for most of these areas. Establish administrative units such as these in the same manner as any other place name, resolving conflicts by adding the heading of an appropriate higher body.

EXAMPLE 1:

place name appears in title as:	郊区 (part of 新乡市)
romanize place name in title as:	Jiao Qu
GNS form:	[not given]
establish heading as:	Jiao Qu (Xinxiang, China)

EXAMPLE 2:

place name appears in title as:	郊区 (part of 开封县)
romanize place name in title as:	Jiao Qu
GNS form:	[not given]
establish heading as:	Jiao Qu (Kaifeng Xian, China)

EXAMPLE 3:

place name appears in title as:	郊区 (part of 鹤壁市)
romanize place name in title as:	Jiao Qu
GNS form:	[not given]
establish heading as:	Jiao Qu (Hebi Shi, China)

EXAMPLE 4:

place name appears in title as:	城区 (part of 阳泉市)
romanize place name in title as:	Cheng Qu
GNS form:	[not given]
establish heading as:	Cheng Qu (Yangquan Shi, China)

EXAMPLE 5:

place name appears in title as:	城区 (part of 盐城市)

romanize place name in title as:	Cheng Qu
GNS form:	[not given]
establish heading as:	Cheng Qu (Yancheng, Jiangsu Sheng, China)

EXAMPLE 6:

place name appears in title as:	城区 (part of 晋城市)
romanize place name in title as:	Cheng Qu
GNS form:	[not given]
establish heading as:	Cheng Qu (Jincheng Shi, Shanxi Sheng, China)

F. Because the names of Chinese places and their relationships to each other are undergoing such fundamental changes, it is especially important to re-evaluate established headings for Chinese place names when they are encountered in the course of cataloging. Thoroughly search headings in the bibliographic and authority files, and refer to GNS and a recent Chinese gazetteer (one published within the past year, if possible). Take the date of the GNS entry into account when identifying the most recent name of a place. A current detailed atlas of China is also helpful. Update headings and perform bibliographic file maintenance when necessary.

EXAMPLE 1:

Authority record 1:   151 Yangzhou Diqu (China) 扬州地区 [2nd level ADM, district]

Authority record 2:   151 Yangzhou (Jiangsu Sheng, China) 扬州 [3rd level ADM, city]
451 Yangzhou Shi (China)
[the last 670, added in 1999, identifies Yangzhou Shi as a 2nd level administrative district]

GNS, 2002:   - entry for Yangzhou Shi, ADM2, 32°24' 00" E 119°26'00" N
- entry for Yangzhou, PPL, 32°23'50" E 119°26'09" N

2002 Chinese gazetteer: identifies Yangzhou Shi as a 2nd level administrative district; there is no longer any entry for a 3rd level ADM called Yangzhou

Zhonghua Renmin Gongheguo xian ji yi shang xing zheng qu hua yan ge, 1987, v. 2: states that Yangzhou Diqu was abolished in 1983, and all of its counties were transferred to Yangzhou Shi

Take the following steps:

Authority record 1:   - add 551 $b Yangzhou Shi (China)

Authority record 2:   - change heading to Yangzhou Shi (China)
                       - delete 451 Yangzhou Shi (China)
                       - add 551 Yangzhou Diqu (China)

EXAMPLE 2:

Authority record 1:   151 Kaifeng Xian (China) 开封县 [3rd level ADM, county]
                       451 Kaifeng (China)

Authority record 2:   151 Kaifeng (Henan Sheng, China) 开封 [identified only as ADM]
                       451 Kaifeng Shi (China) [reference added in 1984]

Authority record 3:   151 Kaifeng Diqu (China) 开封地区 [2nd level ADM, district]

GNS, 2002:   - entry for Kaifeng Xian, ADM3, 34°46' N 114°24' E
                       - entry for Kaifeng, PPL, 34°47' N 114°20' E
                       - entry for Kaifeng Shi, ADM2, 34°51' N 114°20' E, which includes both of the above jurisdictions

Chinese gazetteer, 2001: identifies Kaifeng Xian, which is included within Kaifeng Shi; there is no entry for the urban area, which appears to have been divided into five Qu 区

Zhonghua Renmin Gongheguo xian ji yi shang xing zheng qu hua yan ge, 1987, p. 464: states that, in 1983, Kaifeng Diqu was abolished, with five counties going to Kaifeng Shi and five to Zhengzhou Shi

Take the following steps:

Authority record 1:   - no change

Authority record 2:   - change heading to Kaifeng Shi (China)
                       - delete 451 Kaifeng Shi (China)
                       - add 551 Kaifeng Diqu (China)

Authority record 3:   - add 551 Kaifeng Shi (China)
                       - add 551 Zhengzhou Shi (China)

Also link the record for Zhengzhou Shi (China) to record 3 with 551 Kaifeng Diqu (China)

G. When establishing or changing the authority record for a Chinese place name, always include name of province in the 670 field to help distinguish the places from others with identical or similar names.

    EXAMPLE 1:
    670 Wangmo Xian zong he nong ye qu hua, 1989: $b t.p. (Wangmo Xian, located in Guizhou Sheng)

    EXAMPLE 2:
    670 GEOnet, 2/19/02 $b (Meizhou Shi—ADM2 24°18'34"N 116°06'34"E CH30 [Guangdong]….)

*3. Place names within other place names

Generic terms for geographic features are separated in name of place itself; however, those terms are often joined by GNS when the name of the place is used within the names of other places or geographic features. Distinguish whether the term refers to the geographic feature itself, or to another geographic feature or jurisdiction:

    Chang Jiang (the river itself)
    Changjiang Kou (the name of the mouth of the river)
    Changjiang (name of a populated place)

    Fen He (the river itself)
    Fenhe Shuiku (the name of the reservoir)

    Fanjing Shan (the mountain itself)
    Fanjingshan Ziran Baohuqu (the name of the mountain used in the name of a nature preserve)

4. Establishing headings in other than romanized form

A. Place names in China which are based on a language other than Chinese.

Follow the form of heading cited by GNS when it is available. Make a x-ref. from all relevant romanized forms of the name of the place.

    EXAMPLE 1:
    place name appears in title as: 湾仔区
    romanize place name in title as: Wanzai Qu
    GNS form 2002:   Wan Chai

heading established as:	Wan Chai (Hong Kong, China)
give references from:	Wanzai Qu (Hong Kong, China)
	Wanzi Qu (Hong Kong, China)

EXAMPLE 2:

place name appears in title as:	克拉玛依市 (in Xinjiang Uygur Zizhiqu)
romanize place name in title as:	Kelamayi Shi
BGN citation on NAR:	Karamay [brief] Shi, ADMD…
citation in 2001 Chinese gazetteer:	Kelamayi Shi
heading established as:	Karamay Shi (China)
give references from:	waa Karamay (China)
	Kelamayi Shi (China)
earlier form established as:	Karamay (China)

EXAMPLE 3:

place name appears in title as:	壤塘县
romanize place name in title as:	Rangtang Xian
GNS form 2002:	Zamtang Xian
Citation in 2001 Chinese gazetteer:	Rangtang Xian
heading established as:	Zamtang Xian (China)
give reference from:	Rangtang Xian (China)

B. Taiwan place names

Taiwan place names will be romanized in systematic pinyin form in descriptive strings and corporate names. At this time, GNS continues to prescribe Wade-Giles forms for Taiwan place names. Therefore, headings for Taiwan place names themselves will be given in GNS-approved form.

EXAMPLE 1:

place name appears in title as:	高雄市
romanize the place name in title as:	Gaoxiong Shi
Geonet form:	Kao-hsiung shih
heading established as:	Kao-hsiung shih (Taiwan)

EXAMPLE 2:

place name that is subject of book:	基隆市
romanize place name as:	Jilong Shi
Geonet form for the populated place:	Chi-lung
heading established as:	Chi-lung (Taiwan)

    BUT:

EXAMPLE 3:

corporate name:	臺南市文獻委員會
romanize corporate name as:	Tainan Shi wen xian wei yuan hui
heading established as:	Tainan Shi wen xian wei yuan hui

5. Subject headings for geographical features, buildings, etc.

Subject headings for geographical features (151: Shan, Hu, Hai, Dao, etc.), for archaeological sites, bridges, and other constructions of geographic extent (151), and for buildings (110), are generally established as a combination of the Chinese place name and an English term for the geographical feature, or entirely in English. Chinese terms in these headings follow the form recommended by GNS.

EXAMPLE 1:
place name:	景頗湖
romanize the place name as:	Jingpo Hu
GNS form:	Jingpo Hu
subject heading:	Jingpo Lake (China)

* EXAMPLE 2:
place name:	珠江口
romanize the place name as:	Zhujiang Kou
GNS form:	Zhujiang Kou
subject heading:	Pearl River Estuary (China)

EXAMPLE 3:
place name:	甘肅河西走廊
romanize the place name as:	Gansu Hexi Zoulang
GNS form:	[not given]
subject heading:	Gansu Corridor (China)

EXAMPLE 4:
place name:	塔克拉玛干沙漠
romanize the place name as:	Takelamagan Shamo
GNS form (conventional):	Takla Makan Desert (China)
GNS form (native):	Taklimakan Shamo
subject heading:	Takla Makan Desert (China)

EXAMPLE 5:
place name:	青藏高原
romanize the place name as:	Qing Zang Gaoyuan
GNS form:	Qing Zang Gaoyuan
subject heading:	Tibet, Plateau of (China)

EXAMPLE 6:
place name: 牛街
romanize the place name as: Niu Jie
GNS form: [not given]
subject heading: Niu Jie (China)

EXAMPLE 7:
place name: 福陵
romanize the place name as: Fu Ling
subject heading: Fu Ling Site (Shenyang, Liaoning Sheng, China)

EXAMPLE 8:
place name: 人民胜利渠
romanize the place name as: Renmin Shengli Qu
GNS form: Renmin Shengli Qu
subject heading: Renmin Shengli Canal (China)

*   EXAMPLE 9:
place name: 鯉魚潭水庫
romanize the place name as: Liyutan Shuiku
GNS form: Liyutan Shuiku
subject heading: Li-yü-tʻan Dam (Taiwan)

EXAMPLE 10:
place name: 莫力庙水庫
romanize the place name as: Molimiao Shuiku
GNS form: Muruin Sum Shuiku
subject heading: Muruin Sum Reservoir (China)

EXAMPLE 11:
place name: 黃鶴樓
romanize the building name as: Huang he lou
subject heading: Huang he lou (China)